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Here is an opportunity to redeem myself, and, what is equally important—to feed my mandarins.

But stop! he says the CRAYON has but few readers!—The wise are but few; the rich are but few; the learned are but few; the powerful are but few. To write for the rabble is to write oneself an ass. Therefore, here goes for the next number—"History of the Empire of Kiang."

THE T SQUARES.

CUTE GREEN.—THE BUILDING COMMITTEE.

(Concluded.)

"A MAN of Cute Green's ability could not remain long in his capacity as one of a building committee, without being advanced to the highest functions of his office. We first find him the chairman of a sub-committee of two to close contracts for building the new church.

"Mr. Pinch," says the chairman, 'we have here proposals from all the contractors that have been requested to bid for the erection of our church; the lowest bid is that of Mr. Clearstuff—John Clearstuff—a very respectable mechanic, I believe. What do you propose to do with it?' Mr. Pinch suggested the propriety of inviting Mr. Clearstuff to close a contract.

"Stop a minute," interposed the chairman; 'of course we can do that at any time; but could you not first induce Mr. Clearstuff to reduce his bid? You see, a saving of a couple of thousand or even five hundred would be very acceptable.' 'I know of no inducement,' replied Mr. Pinch, 'which would prompt Mr. Clearstuff to reduce his bid, he now being the lowest of all competitors.'

"Mr. Green.—How is he to know *that* fact unless you tell him so, and besides, you know the firm of John Reckless & Son, builders, offered to do the work for considerable less.

"Mr. Pinch.—The Reckless firm have never entered a written offer, and besides you know they are out of the question.

"Mr. Green.—To be sure—wouldn't have them on any account—poor mechanics, and insolent at that; but still, it is sufficient for you, as the architect, to represent to Mr. Clearstuff that we have bids much lower than his offer, and unless he was willing to abate, say a thousand dollars, we could not give him the contract.

"Mr. Pinch.—I should hardly consider such a course consistent with my professional duties, and would prefer that such negotiation should not be carried on through my agency.

"Mr. Green.—Your professional views are entirely impractical. However, I will negotiate with Mr. Clearstuff myself if you will send him to me. Let me see—what will I say to him? I have got it. Supposing I say that his bid is rather higher than others we had received, but as you had recommended him very highly as a mechanic, we should afford him another opportunity to review his estimate. You will see if he don't come down handsomely.

"Mr. Pinch.—I should beg you not to refer to me in the matter at all. If you desire to see Mr. Clearstuff, and direct me to write him a note to that effect, I shall feel obliged to do so, but I must again request you not to mention my name in your negotiation.

"Next morning Mr. Clearstuff called at the office. He had called upon Mr. Green in pursuance of a note received from Mr. Pinch. Mr. Green expressed a high regard for Mr. Clearstuff as a mechanic and a man, but regretted that his bid should be

so much higher than others received by the committee. Mr. Green would give Mr. Clearstuff an opportunity to review his figures, and prepare another bid, which he, Mr. Green, would request the building committee to take into consideration before they finally decided the matter. John Clearstuff did not like Mr. Green's suavity and had not implicit faith in his statements. He requested Mr. Pinch to tell him whether he was really much higher in his offer than other mechanics. He meant to make his offer as low as he safely could without risk of a loss, for he was very anxious to get the job.

"Mr. Pinch regretted that his duties as the architect prevented him from giving the desired information, and referred him to his own sound judgment and his sense of justice to his competitors to govern his action in the matter. The consequence was a complete failure in Mr. Green's financial manoeuvres.

"Disappointed in this and many other efforts to distinguish himself by his advice in council or in the management of affairs, ignored by Mr. Pinch and the mechanics, who soon appreciated his character, and smarting under continual defeats at the hands of Mr. Sharp, Mr. Green resolved to establish himself a great pillar of the church by concocting a deep-laid scheme to effect an entire revolution in the plans. One day he called at the office quite early in the morning, evidently to make a business of it, and told Mr. Pinch coolly that he could by no means approve of his design for the new house of worship. This announcement was the more startling inasmuch as the building was nearly half finished. Mr. Pinch, naturally of a modest turn of mind, and needing more the stimulus of encouragement and praise than that of harsh and abrupt criticism, inquired what there was in his plans that had roused Mr. Green's displeasure to such a degree as to call for an expression of disapprobation at this late hour, when an alteration was almost impossible. 'The fact is,' said Mr. Green, 'you have designed us a *church*—a very good thing in its way; but we don't want a church—we want a *hall* to preach in.'

"Mr. Pinch.—This is contrary to the instructions I received from the original building committee. They desired me distinctly to design for them a church. I endeavored to do so, and according to your own opinion I have succeeded.

"Mr. Green.—To be sure you have; but our committee did not know what they wanted, and at that time, you will remember, I was in Europe. Had I been here, I should have explained to them and to you that we needed a preaching hall—an audience room—an amphitheatre—a concert room—an opera house, or anything else rather than a *church*. We want a room where a preacher can be seen and heard by a large number of people, who, in their turn, are to be comfortably seated in such a way that they can also see each other—a room that is light, airy, cheerful—none of your dim religious light, vaulted ceilings, large stone columns—all that smells of popery; we don't believe in such things; we want to hear a good sermon, in a pleasant, sociable, comfortable room, without architectural flummery and popish contrivances.

"Mr. Pinch.—And ought not a church, or, if you please, a house of worship, also be a fit place for prayer and communion with God? Should not such a building be distinguishable in its character from buildings devoted to secular purposes? Is it not desirable that our churches, or meeting-houses, if you please, should be monuments expressive of our religious sentiments, our piety, and our devotion. And again, do they not form an important element towards impressing our hearts with

the fact that we are now in the house of God, and make us to feel his greatness and our inferiority, his power and our impotence, his mercy and our sinfulness? And again, is lounging in cushioned pews, and seeing and being seen, conducive to devotional feelings? It is true, a church, in its true sense, will not accommodate as many people leaning round in luxurious pews, who are able to see and hear one man at one end of it, as a theatre with its many galleries would, but why not discard your cushioned seats rather than discard one of the greatest incentives to religious feeling, viz., architectural expression? The fact is, continued Mr. Pinch, as he grew warmer in his argument, you desire not religion nor morality, but you wish to spend your Sunday leisure in hearing a *smart* sermon, not for the instruction it conveys, nor for the improvement of your mind and heart or that of others, but because you enjoy the literary treat to while away hours which respectable society demands of you to spend in church, and while you are doing so you expect to lean as comfortably as a man possibly can, short of the favorite lounge in his library. And what is more, you do not build a church to improve your own morals and those of your neighbor, but because you think it a good financial stroke for the society you are connected with, and a favorable opportunity to elevate yourself in the estimation of your brethren by displaying your sagacity and ability; and do you think me the man who will prostitute his art and his profession, or himself, by being privy to such hypocrisy? No, sir; I am heartily glad that you were absent in Europe when I designed your church, and that it is too late now to alter it without an enormous outlay of money.

"Mr. Green.—I think you are altogether mistaken. Our people don't want your churches nor your architecture, and it is not for you to dictate to them what they should want; and as far as your profession is concerned, if you would only build what the people want, you could make a fortune. Even in this case, if you would alter your plans so as to meet my views at a cost of, say ten or twenty thousand dollars, I have no doubt I could raise the money to do it, and not only would you be thought of very highly by our congregation, but everybody would say Mr. Pinch is a practical man who understands the wants of the people, and knows how to please them, and you could not fail to make plenty of money.

"Mr. Pinch.—Who tells you that I desire plenty of money at such a cost? I value my reputation as an architect higher than anything you can offer, and I want you to understand that I refuse to give countenance to anything you may have to propose in that direction.

"Mr. Green did not think this so serious a matter when he spoke, and he concluded, upon the whole, to drop it there. He went away with an apology on his lips and wrath in his heart. If he could have persuaded Mr. Pinch to join with him in a scheme for altering the plans, he could upset Mr. Sharp; but failing in this, he had to resort to his last card, which unfortunately did not happen to be a trump.

"My dear Steel T Square, do you know what a society meeting is? If you do not, your education is by no means completed. I have never been to a society meeting, but if it is one half as rich as what I heard it to be—here in the office between Mr. Pinch and his friends, it is the most comical, and at the same time the most tragic performance indulged in by sober men."

"And pray what has a society meeting to do with Mr. Green?" inquired the Steel T Square.

"I will tell you presently. You see, Green could gain no ground in the council of the trustees, because Deacon Sharp's measures were sound, and recommended themselves to the good sense of his co-trustees in spite of Mr. Green's opposition. Green's effort to gain over Mr. Pinch had, as you see, signally failed, so there was nothing left but to appeal to the society for a vote of censure on the trustees and the architect."

"How is a vote of censure to affect the trustees?" inquired the Steel T Square. "The society are not likely to understand the matter; or does their legal power control the trustees whether they understand it or not?"

"It is as you suppose," replied the Linden T Square. "The society know nothing of the whole subject, nor have they any legal power to interfere with the action of trustees, nor would any decent man resort to such a scheme to carry his end; he would rather do as Deacon Wright did—he would resign. But our friend Green was either not green enough, or too green for that; so he induced his cronies in the society to raise a clamor about a column in the interior of the church, which had been increased some few inches in size. A petition requesting the trustees to call a society meeting was industriously circulated by Mr. Green's friends, and in due time presented to the trustees. They held a meeting, to which Mr. Pinch was invited, where Mr. Green solemnly declared that he had had no hand in circulating the petition, which was very remarkable, as no one accused him of having done so. Mr. Pinch explained to the satisfaction of the trustees the reasons why the column in question had been increased, and he advised them to call a meeting of the society, knowing full well that such a move would wind up Mr. Green without fail. From this day to the day of meeting the excitement ran very high. Rumors had been spread that Deacon Sharp was carrying matters with a high hand, and that Mr. Pinch was in league with him. It was currently reported that they had planned a cruciform church in the first place, and were now fast increasing the size of the pillars; that they intended ultimately to darken the light as much as possible by stained glass, so that no one would be able either to see or hear in it. One man stated that he had it from good authority that the architect was popish all over, and that the deacon, since he had set up a carriage, was given to episcopacy. Where the thing would finally end no one knew; but Mr. Green had been heard to say that neither Deacon Sharp nor the architect cared a fig for the whole congregation; that they meant to build a church without asking the advice of the voters of the society; that they did not suppose the society, collectively or individually, knew anything about architecture. One old woman got so nervous that she called late at night at the house of the minister, to inquire whether it was true that a big stone cross was intended to be put over the front door, and another inquired of her husband whether architects were not the invention of the evil one, and ought to be avoided; and why buildings could not be erected without them. Groups of elderly gentlemen were seen measuring the columns inside the church with their canes, to ascertain the diameter, and boys were speculating upon the fun there would be when the whole pile would be torn down after the meeting, to make room for an extensive preaching depot, to hold some ten thousand people. Projects were set on foot to balance the clere-story of the church on slender iron columns, to be set aside for others based upon building the columns of layers of plate-glass. Cases without end were cited where buildings, such as markets, railroad depots, haylofts, etc., of a hundred feet in width, had

been spanned with a roof without intermediate columns, and the question was raised why the same thing could not be done with the new church. One very smart fellow got legal advice as to whether the congregation were legally bound to pay the mechanics, as they had not built them exactly what they wanted; and another proposed that Deacon Sharp and the architect should rebuild the church at their own expense, and pay heavy damages for vexation and disappointment suffered by the congregation.

"Cute Green, in the meantime, directed circular letters to all the architects and ministers within his reach, requesting their opinion as to the propriety of stone columns in the interior of Protestant churches.

"The momentous evening finally arrived. At eight o'clock precisely the lecture-room was lighted up to receive the voters of the congregation. Many had already arrived, and amongst them was seen the bland and beaming countenance of Cute Green. He stood in front of the pews near a table where the plans were spread, explaining to a few refractory spirits how much he could have done by way of building a church had he only been present—in fact, how he could improve the church now if he could only have his way about it.

"Very soon Mr. Pinch arrived, accompanied by some of his friends. He was pointed out to many individuals as the cause of the whole evil, and the remark was made in an undertone that he did not appear quite as feindish as they supposed him to look. One old fellow nearly fainted when he saw Mr. Pinch approaching the minister to shake hands with him, and wondered what could keep the good man in conversation with such a monster. After an appropriate prayer by the clergyman of the church, entreating a blessing upon the councils of the congregation—which was much needed—the meeting was opened by the unanimous election of brother Snodgrass for chairman, and brother Fink, secretary.

"Brother Snodgrass stated the object of the meeting, which was to inquire into the reasons why the columns in the interior of the church had been increased in size. He hoped brethren would freely express their opinion on the subject.

"Brother Sly wanted to know whether it had been proved a fact that the columns had been increased, and if so, who had taken the responsibility of doing so without the consent of the congregation?

"Brother Rash said they had been increased some five feet in diameter—that is, he had not measured them himself, but he heard brother Slocum say so, who had been a mechanic in his younger days, and he ought to know.

"Brother Slocum did not wish to be reminded of the fact that he served a short apprenticeship at shoemaking. His long and honorable career as a merchant tailor ought to exonerate him from such an indignity; besides, he did not say the columns had been increased five feet in diameter; he simply remarked to brother Dryer that it was surprising they did not make them five feet larger while they were about it.

"Brother Stagg said he had measured the columns, and as far as he could determine by pacing them off around the circumference, he was pretty sure they must have been increased about two feet.

"Brother Sly requested to know of the chair why they need to have any columns at all. The chair, not being able to say, looked inquiringly at brother Green.

"Brother Green rose, and looking round complacently at the audience before and behind him, remarked that he really did

not know what they wanted the columns at all for. Had he had his way in the matter from the beginning, there should have been no columns in the church (hear! hear!), but he was only a single individual, and had not made architecture his particular study. Still, he had his taste in the matter, and his common sense; he thought he should not like to have a large column between himself and the minister. It might be said, it is true, that I need not select a seat behind a column if I did not choose to do so, continued Mr. Green, 'but then somebody else would sit behind that column, which would make me exceedingly uncomfortable during the whole sermon, for I have some feeling for my fellow men; besides, I like to see a church filled with faces and not with columns. Let me present to you, brethren, the opinion of the Rev. Dr. Ripper on the subject of columns. He writes:

"Dr. S., you desire to know my opinion of columns inside of a Protestant church. My unqualified opinion is, that columns of any kind inside of a Protestant church are a nuisance conducive to popery and eternal perdition.

"Yours in haste,

"LUNATIC RIPPER."

"Now, this is not only the opinion of Dr. Ripper, whom you all know to be a gifted clergyman of the modern school, a man who preaches to crammed houses, and who must be expected to understand the subject, but also the opinion of most gentlemen who have reflected upon it. Look, for instance, at the church of the Rev. Dr. Stunner, which holds some two thousand people without a single column. We have no desire for the architecture of the dark ages, got up by popish priests to overawe a multitude of superstitious people. We live now in an enlightened Protestant country, and a progressive, liberal age. We do not believe in stone walls, stone pillars, dark gloomy stained glass windows; we want a cheerful, comfortable room, that shall be light and airy, where we can see and hear instruction from the pulpit, where we can see each other to enjoy a social communion. I have no desire to find fault with our architect; he has tried to build a church that will reflect most credit upon him in a professional point of view, but I do think our trustees never should have adopted a plan which does not correspond with our congregational notions of a meeting-house. Had I been here at the time, no such plan would have been adopted—not with my consent, at least. The question, however, is not who is to blame, but how is the matter to be remedied? I should propose to take out the columns on the inside of the house, and span a roof from one side wall to the other, put some ornamental arches under it, and (to be sure, I am no architect, and cannot describe these things as they ought to be, precisely) I should finish it up handsome, neat, and pleasant. I have no doubt such an alteration could be made for some ten thousand dollars, if I could only persuade you to have it done, and prevail upon the architect to do it. Architects, to succeed, must abandon their old-fashioned ideas, and study the spirit of modern Protestantism, or they will fail in their profession. They must progress with the times, study the wants of the people, and carry them out in their designs."

"Cute Green sat down with a smile of triumph on his face to yield the floor to Deacon Sharp. The deacon stated that it was true that the columns in the church obstructed some seats, but, as will appear by the plans laid on the table before the society, there were some fourteen hundred sittings left unobstructed. The deacon said that he had collected some statistics

as to the capacity of several modern churches recently erected in the immediate neighborhood, and also as the cost of the same. They all covered about the same ground as their own church, but contained fewer sittings, and cost considerably more money. There was the Rev. Dr. Van Duzer's church which contained twelve hundred and thirty sittings, and cost one hundred and thirty thousand dollars. The Church of the Holy Angels contained eleven hundred and sixty-eight sittings, and cost one hundred and forty-three thousand dollars. Then there was, finally, the Church of the Protestant Triumph, contained thirteen hundred sittings, and cost one hundred and sixty thousand dollars, while their own church contained fourteen hundred *unobstructed* sittings, besides those slightly obstructed by the columns, and cost only seventy-five thousand dollars—or, in other words, one-third of the cost of the others per sitting. As to the comparative architectural merit of these buildings, he would leave the society to judge for themselves; the deacon was decidedly of the opinion that neither of these churches could compare with their own, while their own not only contained more unobstructed sittings than either of the others on the same space of ground, but also was built at a cost of one-third per sitting compared with the cost of the others. Mr. Green was perfectly satisfied with the ——— Church as it was, excepting always the columns. Why could not everything in the way of economy and beauty be obtained, and the columns omitted at the same time? He was aware of the fact that the church seated more people than others without columns; that it cost less and was more beautiful, but he thought columns opposed to congregational notions, a remnant of the idolatry of the middle ages, and being a progressive man, he wants them removed. The Rev. Dr. Stunner was opposed to columns—the Rev. Dr. Ripper was opposed to columns—every great mind of the age was opposed to columns—hence his undying opposition to columns.

"Mr. Pinch here requested permission to offer a few remarks upon the subject. He said the object of this meeting was to inquire into the reasons why the size of the columns had been increased, and who took upon himself the responsibility of so doing without asking permission of the society. If there was an undue responsibility taken, he would plead guilty to the transgression. He *did* increase the size of the columns eight inches in diameter. He did so from a conviction of an absolute necessity for such an alteration. It was desirable that they should be larger than first designed, not from any lack of strength to carry the weight imposed upon them, but from an apparent insufficiency to bear with ease and grace the superstructure of the clere story. He had increased their size in a direction where they did not intercept the view upon the pulpit any more than before they were so altered. He did so without any cost to the society, and consequently did not think it necessary to mention the fact to the committee. They (the committee) must be exonerated from all blame; he alone was willing to bear the burden of it, but he had never expected to be called to account for what he thought a decided improvement, and had no doubt they would all agree with him on that point, if they would only consent to suspend judgment until the church was completed.

"It was suggested that the columns were entirely unnecessary. Here was a church which seated more persons than any other erected upon a plot of ground of equal size, at a cost, as Deacon Sharp had shown, of one-third in amount; besides this, there were a few seats which are obstructed by columns, which

seats, if entirely worthless, do not cost anything. The columns in question are the source of all the economy and advantage gained, and what is more, they are an element of beauty and expression in the building—admitted by all, and still gentlemen persisted in the face of all this to wish them away. Away to do what? To span a roof from sidewall to sidewall at an expense of some forty thousand dollars—for this is the sum such an alteration would cost—but also at the cost of a decrease in the space allotted for sittings, because the sidewalls would have to be materially increased in thickness to bear the burden of such a complicated roof. I will not, continued Mr. Pinch, here enter into a discussion of the architectural merits of the columns in the interior of churches, which show an undue proportion of length and width, for this is too obvious to be overlooked by the most uneducated mind, but *I will* say a few words as to the necessity of architectural expression in a church. It has been advanced here, that a church is simply a place where a number of people forming a congregation are to be comfortably seated, to see each other, and to listen to a sermon. Without detracting from the value of religious instruction, I would ask one question—is not a church also the house of God, a place of worship, of prayer, and of praise? Should it not, in its exterior, bear the character of a monument erected in honor of the God we worship—a monument of the religious zeal of the community who erect it? and should it not, in its interior, possess all those architectural features which awaken in the human breast, devotion, humility, repentance, and the love and fear of God? In other words, gentlemen, is a church to be simply a lounging place, to see and to be seen—a place to hear smart sermons for the sake of the brilliant excitement they afford—a place where, at best, morals and religion are to be philosophically discussed—yes, to give it vulgar name, if need be, if it be only an expressive one, is a church to be a *preaching-mill*, or is it to be a *church*? In times when religious persecution drove men from their hearthstones to worship in the wilderness, when people were unable to more than meet the pressing wants of their families, and of necessity were obliged to meet in caves and in barns to worship God, there was true virtue in the simplicity of the house of God; it imparted poetry to the simplicity of worship. When strong religious agitation filled the minds of men with pregnant doubts and noble solutions of the same; when, for the sake of religious opinions, men were willing to leave behind them name and estate, their fortunes and their families, to lead a life of deprivation and hardship in exile, to glorify God in unwon labor, and to praise him in every act of their lives, for the sake of the purity of their belief—then the simple sermon under the shade of an oak, or in the sacredness of the midnight hour, by the watch-fire in the mountains, was sufficient to elevate the mind to Him who made and preserves us. But when men live in palaces on the Fifth Avenue, when they indulge in the luxuries of a modern Gotham, when they pile up riches daily, does it not become necessary to erect churches that shall bear a reasonable relation to their habitations—churches liberal, bold, grand in their proportions and their appointments, that shall awaken the dormant and stunted spirit of religion. And if one church is insufficient to embrace the numbers of the faithful, instead of spending forty thousand dollars in converting it into a barn that will do so, why not go forth and build another church?

"But, Mr. Chairman, this is not the point upon which this agitation turns; nor should I go any further to explain the real

reason why the members of this society have been called together here to-night. Were I alone involved in this controversy, I should be willing here to rest my case, and appeal to your sound judgment and love of justice, if this matter did not involve the interests of the profession to which I have the honor to belong. For that purpose, I feel it a duty to go beyond the argument into an investigation of the conduct of the gentleman who addressed you before me—I mean Mr. Green. The first act of Mr. Green, when he favored us with his presence after a return from Europe, where he does not appear to have profited in learning or liberality, was to find fault with the plans adopted by you for your new church. It is rather remarkable that plans adopted by six of the trustees, and approved of unanimously by the whole society, should not meet the views of Mr. Green, and that he should think that you all were mistaken rather than that he might be ignorant of the subject—a doubtful compliment (to speak in charitable terms) to my humble abilities, as well as to your judgment, showing quite a firm confidence in and admiration of his own taste and information. Under the circumstances, it would have been Mr. Green's duty either to withdraw from the active labors of the committee, or to call the society together to reconsider their acts, and I have no doubt if he had been sincere in his opinions, he would have done so. But not so; he desired to differ with us all, in order to establish a reputation for originality which he soon found he could not effect, so he concluded to wait for the next opportunity. During six months, in which Mr. Green has been deeply engaged in business pursuits, this building has progressed to the satisfaction of all, and to his own, I sincerely believe. He had no opportunity to distinguish himself as a building committee, when, fearful lest the building should be satisfactorily completed without his interference, he suddenly concluded to make a bold stand for a revolution. A revolution how? He did not know. He bethought himself of these columns, but not knowing how and why to find fault with them, he issued letters of inquiry to different architects and clergymen as to the propriety of columns in Protestant churches, as though such a thing was a novelty never heard of before, hoping that he could gather from their replies enough to make out a case here before you to-night. But how did he succeed? He received just one letter favorable to his position, and that from the Rev. Dr. Ripper—a harmless enthusiast (as you all know) on the wrong side of every question. But where are the letters received from the various architects who replied to his inquiries. Let me ask the gentleman why he did not read them?

"Mr. Green here stated that he had forgotten to bring them; if he had them with him he should read them with pleasure.

"Mr. Pinch requested Mr. Green to state the substance of those letters.

"Mr. Green said that those letters were mostly in favor of Mr. Pinch's notions of church architecture, but they were written by architects, and of them nothing else could be expected but the prejudices of the dark ages. He had been to Europe, and had seen the churches there, and he had made this observation, that where catholicism was predominant, the columns in churches were the biggest, and he had concluded from this fact that stone columns in the interior of churches inevitably lead to popery. If the society desired to be converted to the Roman Catholic church, they should encourage stone columns, and he desired them to remember that he prophesied this day, that as sure as those columns went up, their souls were doomed to go down into idolatry, popery, and perdition.

"Mr. Pinch regretted that those letters had been forgotten at home, and he wished Mr. Green had also brought his journal of his journey through Europe, which must contain many architectural curiosities valuable to those who took an interest in the art; it would also illustrate the sagacity of the gentleman in measuring columns to prepare himself for this society-meeting; the only thing to be regretted was, that in his zeal to measure Roman Catholic columns, he had entirely omitted to pay attention to Protestant columns. Now, it is a positive fact, that the whole tendency of Gothic architecture during the fourteenth and fifteenth century, prior to the Reformation, was towards reducing and organizing masses of piers, while the Protestant St. Paul's in London, and the whole school of Sir Christopher Wren down to one of its latest productions, the late Tabernacle in Broadway, were graced with monstrous columns. But to return to these letters. I am quite sure there is no gentleman present who would feel warranted in calling in a strange doctor to a member of his family without giving notice to his family physician, requesting a consultation, unless prompted to such an act by gross negligence or decided want of ability. Now I ask, have I ever given you reason to doubt my faithfulness, integrity, or ability to complete your church as successfully as it has been commenced; and yet Mr. Green, without cause, without notice to myself, without consultation with the rest of the trustees or committee, sends ambiguous letters—in some cases without signature—to several architects and divines to obtain their opinion on a subject upon which no opinion can be given unless the case is fully and fairly stated, in the hope that he may get hold of something inadvertently uttered by an unwary contemporary that might tend to show that he is a wise man, and we are all fools; and when he finds himself disappointed, what does he do? Does he come here like a gentleman and a Christian to say to you, with the humility and candor of a man who regards the interests of the church paramount to every other consideration: 'Brethren, my vanity led me to suppose that I knew more about architecture and building churches than all the rest of the committee; my worldly ambition prompted me to make a handle of this, to press down upon my fellow deacon, of whom I felt a sinful jealousy for his prompt and efficient performance of duty, in order to raise up myself in your estimation. I am thankful, however, that I failed, like the man who sat upon a wheelbarrow and tried to wheel himself; that my pride was lowered, and that the spirit of kindness now prevails. I have used wicked means to accomplish my ends by clandestinely addressing ambiguous letters to sundry architects without good reason to doubt the man we have employed; but I find by the replies I received that I am wrong, and that you are right; that I have caused you to be called together for selfish and wicked motives, for which I hope you will accept of my repentance, and permit me to remain the humblest member of this respectable body. 'I say, does he come here a repentant and a better man? No! What does he do? He accidentally forgets those letters at home. I suppose it happened somewhat in this wise: he intended to bring those letters here together with that journal, and sorted out the letter of the Rev. Dr. Ripper, and in his haste, he left the larger bundle, and put the Ripper letter in his pocket. Above all things, I should like to see the letter of Mr. Spunk the architect.

"Mr. Green said that Mr. Spunk sent him an impertinent note, which he would like the society to read, if he only had it with him.

"Mr. Pinch stated that he had taken the precaution to bring a copy of it, furnished by the 'impertinent' architect, who kept a copy of his reply, and he would read this, together with Mr. Green's application.

MR. GREEN TO MR. SPUNK.

'DEAR SIR: Will you be so kind as to briefly communicate to me your knowledge of the sentiments of the various Christian communities for whom you have professionally labored relative to the policy of large columns in the interior of church edifices. What is the relative cost of building a large church, with and without columns, and which plan is the most favorable for speaking and hearing.

'Your obedient servant.'
(No signature.)

MR. SPUNK TO MR. GREEN.

'SIR: I received a letter without signature, but inclosed in an envelope, with the stamp of your firm on it, wishing me to give information relative to some points on church architecture. I wish to inform the writer that the experience and information gained by my practice as an architect for twenty years past, is not at the service of every stranger applying for the same; and therefore respectfully decline giving the desired information without some further explanation—at all events, as to the object in getting it.

'Yours, respectfully,
'A. SPUNK.'

"Mr. Sly thought that Brother Green had acted rather rashly in the matter. The question now is could not those columns after all be reduced in size by cutting them down?

"Brother Sedate wished to suggest an expedient: viz., to remove the largest column and substitute an iron casting consisting of three thin columns placed about two feet apart.

"Mr. Pinch remarked that such a construction, although excellent in its conception, would appear rather trifling in a church; besides it required the effect of massiveness of a stone pier. He said he desired the society simply to suspend judgment until the building could be completed, and he had no doubt they would then admit the propriety of his arrangements.

"Mr. Green wanted to know whether he understood Mr. Pinch to say that if the society were dissatisfied with the columns upon its completion, he would, at their discretion, cut them down smaller.

"Mr. Pinch had said no such thing; but still, to satisfy the society, he was willing to submit to the decision of the pastor upon the completion of the building, having the utmost confidence in the judgment of that gentleman in architectural matters.

"Mr. Sprig said this proposition showed clearly that Mr. Pinch knew nothing of congregational usage, as though we would be governed in anything by our pastor or anybody else. We are here, Mr. Pinch, to vote on this subject according to our best understanding. Each member has his vote, and none of us are willing to be led by anybody else.

"Mr. Pinch respectfully inquired of the chairman whether the member would not be safer in voting intelligently under the advice of the pastor, than ignorantly on his own hook.

"The President growled his dissent, and stated that if Mr. Sprig would please take the chair for a while he would inform Mr. Pinch that Mr. Sprig's principle of voting was the eternal foundation of congregationalism. He had heard all Mr. Pinch had to say in favor of columns, but he could not for the world

see the benefit of depriving the five hundred people who had to sit behind those columns of the privilege of hearing the gospel preached.

"Mr. Pinch wished to correct the gentleman: there were no five hundred seats obscured by the piers; and, what is more, people sitting behind them could hear very well.

"Chairman.—When I said five hundred I meant 'a good many.' It is now getting late, however, and I would like to know the sense of the meeting on the matter before them."

"Mr. Stagg proposed the following resolution. 'Resolved, That we regret the presence of columns in our new Meeting-house; but seeing that we cannot alter the case, we are willing to submit to it.'

"Mr. Sprig offered an amendment. After the word 'is,' add 'And that the architect is requested to cut them down as small as possible, without doing injury to the building.'

"Deacon Sharp offered an amendment to strike out all after the word 'Resolved,' and substitute 'That we now adjourn this meeting,' which was carried unanimously.

"Here," said the Linden Square, "ends my knowledge of Oute Green and my office experience. You now have information that will be of service to you, notwithstanding the polish of the material out of which you are composed."

Foreign Correspondence, Items, etc.

GERMANY—*Düsseldorf*.—Leutze's new painting, representing "Anne Boleyn prevailing upon Henry VIII. to dismiss Wolsey," possesses some of the most remarkable characteristics of this German-American artist. Andreas Achenbach has produced a large landscape, which is greatly admired. Prof. Köhler's "David as Shepherd-boy" and Vantier's pictures, one representing the "Interior of a Church," and the other a "Scene on a Steamboat on the Lake of Geneva," are among the other new productions, which deserve special commendation. *Berlin*.—A statue of Handel has just been completed by Hermann Heidel. A great portion of its cost has been defrayed by contributions collected by a committee of the Sacred Harmonic Society of London. It is destined for the city of Halle. The illustrious composer is represented in the costume of his times; the statue executed during Handel's lifetime by Ronbillac serving as a guide to the Berlin artist. The likeness is preserved in a remarkable degree; while the attitude of the master, who leans on a table, on which lies the *Messiah*, is full of majesty and power. *Stuttgart*.—The Swabian world of Art and learning is in the greatest state of excitement at the present moment. An original portrait of the first duke of Wurtemberg, *Eberhard im Bart*, as the good man was called, has just been discovered. The artist's name is Hans Schüle or Schülein, a native of Ulm; he spent much of his time at the Ducal court of Tübingen. The discovery of this portrait produces as much pleasure in this city as the news of a new gold mine in Sacramento or in Kansas would in New York. The reader may smile at the *novelty* of the Stuttgarters. Suppose that by some misfortune all the portraits of Washington had been lost or destroyed, would it not produce an excitement even in this dollar-bound land to hear of the recovery of one of them? Now this is precisely the case with these Stuttgarters. *Eberhard im Bart* was a Wurtemberg Washington, on a small or rather feudal scale; and the Swabians being a shrewd sort of people, love their dead dukes better than their living kings. One cannot go